

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Sanctuary Education Team, a working group of the Sanctuary
Advisory Council

Meeting Notes

Date: 2002 October 16

Time + Place: 6 to 8 PM; Channel Islands National Park Headquarters,
Ventura

1) Welcome, Introductions: Kathy deWet-Oleson

Members Present:

Kathy deWet-Oleson, Chair
Michael Hanrahan, Media
Barry Hummel, Diving
Bill Kulhanek, Yachting
Cal Meuser, Recreational Boating
Lori Pye, Conservation
Frank Sullivan, Recreational Fishing
Mary Stack, Marine Education

Members Absent:

Mike Behrens, Research
Holly Lohuis, Tourism

This being a joint meeting of Enforcement + SET,

Enforcement persons present:

Robert Duncan, Chair
Jack Fitzgerald, CINP
Rick Christainson, US Coast Guard
Brian Coryat
Harvey Banick
Sean Hastings, CINMS
Eric Kett, Blue Planet Research

Resource persons present:

Shauna Bingham, CINMS
Julie Bursek, CINMS
Marisa Lopez, CINP Intern
Yvonne Menard, CINP
Andy Prokopow, Local Environment Organizations
Michael Smith, CINMS

Others in attendance:

Kelly Murphy
Glenn Shuart
Craig Taylor

2) Stellwagen Banks Video: Sean Hastings

Sean Hastings played an excerpt from a video produced by Stellwagen Banks that after a brief description of the physical, animal, and user diversities, introduced the enforcement persons of three agencies whose responsibility it is to inform and cite users and violators in Sanctuary waters. The video served as a model of an education tool as well as a lead in to this meeting's business of bringing enforcement and education together here in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

3) Enforcement presentations: Sean Hastings

Sean described the enforcement agencies who have jurisdiction in the Sanctuary: California Department of Fish + Game (DFG); The United States Coast Guard; Channel Islands National Park (CINP); and NOAA Fisheries (also known as National Marine Fisheries Service). The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary does not have enforcement personnel. Rather CINMS actively monitors from the air, sea, and mainland and helps to advise and coordinate the existing enforcement agencies.

Jack Fitzgerald: Channel Islands National Park

In addition to the land above water, CINP has jurisdiction on the water one nautical mile from each island. Enforcement began when the islands were designated as a National Monument in 1938. In 1980 the islands became a National Park and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary was created.

CINP carries out marine and aerial patrols. Relating to the Sanctuary, the Park enforces regulations only in Park jurisdiction, but violators may be pursued beyond that.

Jack noted that the usual method of entering a National Park is through a land-based gate, where visitors can be funneled through information centers. There is no gate to CINP.

The most common, if not practical method of informing visitors that they are violators (or potential violators) is boarding in the resource. In addition to verbal information, Park personnel hand out brochures with descriptions of regulations, write warning citations, and approximately 1400 actual citations per year.

As yet, the Park does not have the means to share citation (and warning) information with other enforcement agencies.

Jack was asked if the Park had quantified vehicles and visitors to the park so as to profile likely violators. And, Jack replied that although they had not made formal quantifications, he relied on the experience of his personnel to select targets and anticipate violations.

Rick Christainson, US Coast Guard

Rick said the Coast Guard has thirty people with two boats to patrol the water between Point Dume and Point Conception. That is a huge expanse to patrol and regulation enforcement has been lowered below Homeland Security since September 11, 2001. Rick said that while they are sensitive to regulation violations, they are likely to pass information to DFG, while they tend to matters of security and safety.

The US Coast Guard utilizes the Coast Auxiliary, a volunteer organization, to educate. Auxiliary volunteers make presentations to organizations, attend festivals and marine shows, and use personal boats to advise on the water. Rick estimates that there are only 8 to 10 Auxiliary boats for the Sanctuary region.

>Both Rick and Jack were asked if there was a phone number that a witness could call to report violations. Jack said one should call (805) 658-5700, then enter 0.

>Rick stated the act of handing out a brochure was not education.

>While both enforcement persons described educating on the water, Kathy noted that it was SET's goal to reach potential violators before they entered the resource.

>Frank Sullivan noted that it is essential to have accurate charts both printed and electronic that provide reserve area information.

>Alex Brodie followed that the boundaries of the reserve need to be latitude/longitude rather than described by depth.

>Mary Stack suggested that large notices should be placed at harbor entrances and maybe utilize volunteers to attract attention and provide additional information.

>Brian Coryat offered that charts and information tools should be useable, something that is at hand on the boats.

>Michael Hanrahan described the process of educating--the process SET has adopted--as marketing, and that for practicality, we need to describe "users" and "education tools" in a matrix to establish the cost effective means for reaching people.

>There was general agreement that Commercial Fishers and Boaters would learn the regulations because as violators their licenses (and businesses) would be in jeopardy. The harder task is getting the general recreational users to want to be educated.

>Mary and Jack thought weather kiosks could be positioned for accessibility and adapted to inform visitors about Sanctuary opportunities and regulations.

>Alex and others would like the information downloadable from the NOAA website.

>And Cal Meuser and others noted that navigational devices should have the boundaries on their chips.

4) Prioritizing Exercise: Kathy deWet-Oleson

Kathy designated SET members to lead small groups in an exercise to establish priorities for educating user groups.

5) Next SET Meeting

The next SET meeting will be Wednesday, November 6, 2002 from 6 to 8 PM in Santa Barbara at a location to be announced.

Marisa Lopez will prepare a draft matrix for SET members to complete at the meeting.

SET is a Working Group of the Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. A description of SAC and SET is below. For further information, please visit our website:
<http://www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov>

The Sanctuary Advisory Council

December of 1998 marked the beginning of a new era in management for the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Since that time, the Sanctuary Advisory Council has been working successfully to enhance Sanctuary management by bringing valuable community advice, expertise and concerns to the table for management consideration. The Council provides a public forum for consultation and deliberation and offers community-based advice to the Sanctuary Manager. This is a community-based participatory process that assures continued public input to management decision-making, while at the same time expanding public awareness about the Sanctuary and challenging marine resource management issues. Specifically, the Council's objectives are to provide the Sanctuary manager with advice on:

- Protecting natural and cultural resources, and identifying and evaluating emergent or critical issues involving Sanctuary use or resources;
- Identifying and realizing the Sanctuary's research objectives;
- Identifying and realizing educational opportunities to increase the public knowledge and stewardship of the Sanctuary environment; and
- Assisting to develop an informed constituency to increase awareness and understanding of the purpose and value of the Sanctuary and the National Marine Sanctuary Program.

The Council has also approved formation of the following standing working groups:

- Fishing Working Group
- Conservation Working Group
- Military Working Group
- Ports and Harbors Working Group
- Sanctuary Education Team

Working Groups

Working Groups are composed of SAC members and persons outside the Council. All Working Groups are chaired by a member of the Council and function under the purview of the SAC. A number of standing Working Groups have been formed to provide the Council with ongoing input on such areas as education, fishing, conservation issues, port and harbor interests, and military activities. In addition, task-specific Working Groups are occasionally established by the Council to address specific issues, and then are disbanded once final advice is submitted to the SAC.

As with all SAC meetings, Working Group meetings are open to the public, and participation is welcomed. The list below provides e-mail links to Advisory Council and Sanctuary staff contacts for each Working Group. To inquire about a particular Working Group, contact the appropriate persons listed below.

Sanctuary Education Team (SET)

The Sanctuary Education Team role is to assist the Sanctuary Advisory Council in making recommendations to the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. The SET's mission is to advance public understanding of the biodiversity, ecology, and cultural legacy that comprise this unique and diverse region and to promote stewardship of marine ecosystems.

Chair: Kathy deWet-Oleson
Sanctuary staff liaison: Julie Bursek
Sanctuary staff liaison: Michael Smith